United Protestant Church, Palmer, Matanuska Valley

1937

PALMER, ALASKA
UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
1922-23
CALMER, ALBERTA.

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the Alaska Committee
of the Home Missions Council

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The meeting of the Alaska Committee of the Home Missions Council was held on April 22nd at 2:00 P.M. in Dr. King's office.

Those present were: J. M. Somerndike, Chairman
Mrs. Forsythe
Mrs. Race

Excuses were received from a number of members of the Committee who were unable to be present.

The Chairman requested the Committee's concurrence in the action of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. in assigning Rev. B. J. Bingle in charge of the Presbyterian Mission station at Cordova to the task of providing the ministry for the U. S. Government colonization project in the Matanuska Valley. This assignment was made on the ground that the Matanuska Valley area being contiguous to our work at Anchorage is allocated to the Presbyterian Church, and feeling a sense of responsibility for the new families who will be moving into this region, the Board of National Missions felt under obligations to provide a worker who would minister to these new settlers.

After discussion the Committee voted to concur in the action that had been taken. It is understood that if, and when, a church organization is effected among these new settlers it will be a community church. It was agreed by the Committee that all matters relative to the support of such a church under interdenominational auspices should be left for future consideration to be determined largely by future developments under Mr. Bingle's ministry.

The Committee considered various plans for the unifying of all the Protestant work in Alaska under common objectives, promotion, etc., and after discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should be authorized to canvass, with the representatives of other denominations interested in work in Alaska, the possibilities of organizing in Alaska an association of evangelical churches, looking toward a joint conference of the ministers and missionaries representing the various denominations in Alaska in the spring of 1936.

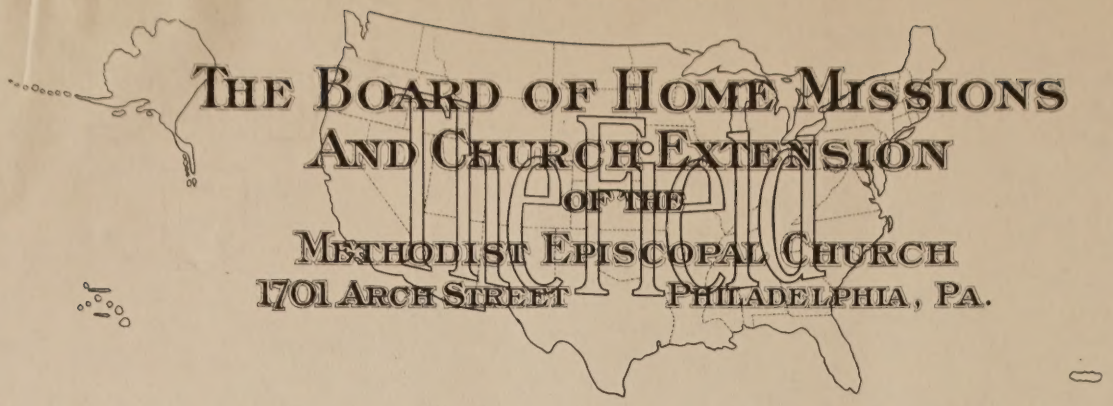
The Committee expressed its approval of the proposal to prepare a comprehensive statement describing the work of all the Protestant denominations in Alaska for publicity purposes which will be available for the use of all the denominations in promoting interest in Alaska missions.

On motion, the Committee adjourned.

BISHOP ERNEST G. RICHARDSON
PRESIDENT

EDWARD D. KOHLSTEDT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WILLIAM J. ELLIOTT
TREASURER



THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
AND CHURCH EXTENSION
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1701 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 18, 1935

Dr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your April 11 letter is rather disturbing, for several reasons:

First - While there have also been urgent appeals from Methodists who are involved by the Matanuska Valley colonization project in Alaska (see enclosed copy of an April 10, 1935 letter from our Western Representative, Dr. Walter Torbet), to take immediate steps toward the establishment of a church in that region, we deferred action on an assumption that, in harmony with principles recognized in similar governmental enterprises (Boulder City, Nevada, etc.), it might be within the realm of practical possibilities to proceed interdenominationally in this matter and develop another genuine exhibit in Cooperative Christianity.

Second - In case such a possibility is still open to consideration, we are wholeheartedly for it; otherwise, I hardly see what can be accomplished by the proposed meeting of our Home Missions Council Committee on Alaska, unless there are other matters that require immediate consideration.

Cordially yours,

EDKohlstedt

EDK/BG

enclosure

C O P Y

83 McAllister Street,
San Francisco, California,
April 10, 1935

Rev. E. D. Kohlstedt,
1701 Arch Street,
Phila., Pa.

My dear Dr. Kohlstedt:

The letter from Dr. Isaac E. Miller and others from Columbus, Ohio, in regard to the settlement being made in the Matanuska Valley in Alaska is before me. You will have noticed that I make reference to this in the letter that I wrote Brother Vincent that has just recently come to your desk. The government is apparently actually settling some two hundred families in the Matanuska Valley north of Anchorage. My understanding is, that the government contemplates a Union or Interdenominational Church. The actual settlers are not yet there, so I think I will be in Alaska in time to look into the matter and make my report.

Yours truly,

Walter Torbet

April 20th, 1935

Dr. E. D. Kohlstedt
1701 Arch St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Kohlstedt:

Replying to your letter of April 18th, I am writing to say that it is understood that if a church is organized in the Matanuska Valley, it will be a community church. It is on the basis of that understanding that we have made a satisfactory arrangement with the government offices for the allocation of a plot of ground. We have been in perfect harmony with the principles recognized by the Home Missions Council in our procedure in this matter. The section which is to be settled is in closest proximity to our Presbyterian Church at Anchorage, and since the pastor of this church, with the assistance of our pastor at Cordova, have ministered to the families who have been located in the Matanuska Valley for some years, it seemed quite proper that we should go ahead and plan for ministry to any newcomers who might arrive, whether under government auspices or otherwise.

If it is the judgment of the Alaska Committee that each of the denominations should be asked to bear its share of the support of Mr. Bingle, our Missionary who has been transferred from Cordova to the Matanuska Valley, and whose appointment is not only acceptable but enthusiastically approved by the government officials because of their knowledge of his adaptability to a work of this kind, I think our Board would be entirely satisfied to give the other denominations represented in the Home Missions Council the opportunity to participate in his support by such an arrangement.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

PALMER COMMUNITY CHURCH
PALMER, ALASKA.
April 15, 1936.

Presbyterian Board of National Missions,
New York, City, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

We, the Executive Board of the Protestant Community Church of Palmer, desire to present a few facts through our pastor, The Rev. B.J. Bingle, for your consideration.

Many statements and opinions have reached you during the past months as to the outcome of this project. We wish to stand on record that we feel this Community is and will be an assured fact and as such has already established a permanent church need. To date we find an ever increasing interest in this church organization and an unusual spirit of interdenominational unity. For instance, the Executive Board composed of seven members represents as many denominations and in the entire church body there are at least fourteen church groups represented.

The attendance at church functions is increasing and in itself is not a true index of the interest existing because of the problem of transportation. We sincerely believe this will continue to grow as the transportation situation is remedied.

We are now faced very definitely with the problem of church construction to meet our growing demands. The church must be well planned and constructed to compare favorably with the other Community buildings. And towards this end we are working.

It is generally known that the Territory of Alaska has been zoned and that we are living in the Presbyterian zone.

We greatly appreciate the assistance of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions in contracting the salary of the pastor for three years and we must still look to this Board for help and guidance in the future.

We are aware that we have the greatest burden to bear and have begun to meet this by the raising of funds. To date we have in cash pledges $650.00 without any solicitation, about $700.00 worth of material and labor and a gift of real estate worth $400.00. These sums will increase we are certain, judging by the spirit exemplified, which does not seem to be sporadic.

There are two things Rev. Bingle will present to your Board for consideration; one deals with finance, the second concerns the matter of our Constitution or articles of Incorporation. We believe the dual membership status to be the best in our organization and that the property should be jointly held by the Board of National Missions and the local Protestant Community Church in proportion to their gifts.

In conclusion, we believe that your Board will consider thes matters Rev. Bingle will present in the light of the facts set forth in this letter, for the establishment of our church in the North.

Very truly yours,

The Executive Board of the
Protestant Community Church,
Palmer, Alaska.

C. Earl Albrecht

C.Earl Albrecht, M.D.
Chairman.

$200.00 Palmer, Alaska, August ....., 1936.

After date, without grace, I promise to pay to the order of BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, at the First National Bank of Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska, Two hundred and no/100 ($200.00) - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, as follows, to-wit; ten ($10.00) dollars per month on the first day of each and every month until paid, commencing with the first day of September, 1936, with interest thereon in like lawful money at the rate of six (6%) per cent. per annum, until paid. Interest payable on all deferred payments on the first day of each and every month until paid, commencing with the first day of September, 1936; and in case suit or action is instituted to collect this note, or any portion thereof, I promise to pay such additional sum as the Court may adjudge reasonable as attorney's fees in said suit or action.

Clarence A. Brauen

- -

Palmer, Alaska, August .....1936.

First National Bank of Anchorage,

Anchorage, Alaska.

Gentlemen:-

I am inclosing herewith deed from BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, to myself , for Lot No. 11, in block No. 2, of the M. D. Snodgrass addition to the Palmer Townsite, Palmer Alaska, to be held by you in Escrow until certain conditions are fulfilled. When these conditions are complied with the deed is to be turned over to me, otherwise the deed shall he returned to the Mission of the Presbyterian Church.

The conditions are embodied in the attached note. And time is declared to be of the essence of the payments enumerated therein.

Thanking you for looking after this matter, I am,

Yours truly

Clarence A. Brauen

THIS INDENTURE, made this ..... day of August, A. D. 1936, by and between BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, party of the first part, and Clarence A. Brusven, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred Fifty and no/100 ($250.00) dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, the following described real estate, situated in the Northwest quarter (NW¼), of the Northwest quarter (NW¼), of Section four (4), Township Seventeen (17) North, Range Two (2) East of the Seward Meridian, Territory of Alaska, and better described and known as follows, to-wit:

Lot number Eleven (11), in Block number Two (2), of the M. D. Snodgrass addition to the Palmer Townsite, Palmer, Alaska,

Together with all the singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, free and clear of all incumbrances, liens and mortgages, of any nature or kind, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns forever.

And we do hereby, for ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said grantee, his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee of the granted premises; that they are free and clear from all incumbrances, that we have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that we will, and our heirs, executors and administrators shall, warrant and defend the same to the said grantee, his heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawfull claims and demands of all persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the party of the first part have hereunto set their hand and seal this day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of,

_____ _____
BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

_____ _____
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

_____
IN THE UNITED STATES
(SEAL)

_____
OF AMERICA.

By _____
President.

By _____
Secretary.

.....
SS.
.....

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that on this ..... day og August, A. D. 1936, before me the undersigned, a ....., in and for the State of ....., duly commisioned and sworn, personnally came, _____ President, and _____ _____ Secretary, respectively of the BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,, a Corporation, to me known to be the President and Secretary of said corporation, and that the seal affixed to said instrument is the corporate seal of said corporation, and that the said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of said corporation by authority of its board of directors, and said _____ President and _____ Secretary acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of said corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this ..... day of August, A. D. 1936.

(SEAL) _____

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BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- To -

Clarence A. Brusven.

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D E E D .

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From the office of
C. C. Brix,
Palmer, - Alaska.

October 9th, 1936

Rev. B. J. Bingle
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bingle:

I am enclosing herewith the deed given by Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass to the Board of National Missions for two lots, #11 and #12, in block #2 of the M. D. Snodgrass addition, to the Palmer townsite for church and manse purposes.

To the best of my recollection, it was agreed at our meeting held in your home while I was in Palmer, that upon the sale of this property the sum of $500 out of the proceeds is to be set aside to cover the amount which our Board granted for the building of the house which you now occupy, this money to be applied toward a new manse which we hope we shall be able to erect next spring. If I am incorrect in my understanding of this situation kindly inform me.

I understand that it is the desire of your Council that the Board of National Missions shall hold title to the property on which the church is being erected. We do not have any deed covering that piece of ground. Will you kindly see that the deed for the property is properly executed and forwarded to us as soon as possible? Our auditors require that in all cases where appropriations are made from the building funds of the Board, as is being done in the case of the new church that is being erected in Palmer, it is necessary for us to have the deed in our files. I am sure that the members of your Council will understand the necessity for this requirement and that they will gladly cooperate, since the appropriation which we have given for the new church is given out of trust funds, the use of which is specifically designated.

Now, if you find that it is necessary for our Board to execute a deed conveying this property which Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass deeded to us on the tenth day of February, 1936, back to him, or to your Council, kindly return the deed which I am enclosing, and

we will draw up a deed in accordance with the desire of your Church Council.

Awaiting your further advice, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS
Enc.

Palmer, Alaska.
Oct. 28, 1936.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your letter with the deed inclosed has arrived and the Sec. of the Building Comm. and the Chairman of the Council, Dr. Albrecht, will write you sending the notes on the meeting of the day here. I will state however, lest he miss this boat, that the funds for the two lots are being used for the erection of the church as that is the purpose of the lots being given to us. The only reason I had them put into the Board's name was that I had experienced a little irregularity before in dealing for that property and I did not want a repetition, I wanted the land and I wanted that particular piece. We spoke of it while you were here and it was O.Keyed. The $500.00 you gave for the erection of the manse, if and when the manse was sold, that was to apply to the erection of the new manse.

I think Dr. is returning the deed for you to redeed it to the Board of trustees of the United Protestant Church of Palmer Alaska. Then we will give the deed to those that bought the property and have houses erected on the same and are living on them. One such transaction had been made and house built on the same when your visit to us was enjoyed, the other was just awaiting your word so we could make out the papers.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the land contract from the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, a duplicate of the one you signed while you were here. This is to give a sufficient number of months to erect the church, after the completion of which a deed to the land would be given. This is to keep some from getting the land and make a pretense of building and then not go thru with it and still hold the land, by using the land contract

We have had our difficulties with our Prayer Service. I announced the beginning at the time of the dedication services for our plot of ground. The leader was detained by a court trial. Two weeks elapsed before we were righted up again, then on the set night we were given twenty-four hours to saw our logs at the mill, most of us were sawing logs. The last week right in the midst of prayer an earthquake came that lasted 90 seconds. That house that we were in got right up and shook itself. If that would have happened in your fair city you would have had plenty of buildings coming down. As it was here just some leaks developed in the steam and water lines and some cement floors cracked. I left a kerosene lamp burning at the house and I lost no time in leaving that meeting and getting back to town two and one-half miles to see about that lamp. Another person was here at the house and Vella, our little girl, jumped out of bed and held the light till Jimmy opened the trap down that goes down stairs, then she blew the light out as they came down and ran out of doors. - Mr. Erickson, a member of the Council that you met, thinks I drove sorta fast back to town.

Good Meeting at Eklutna the other night, fine group down there.

Sincerely yours,

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Nov. 27, 1936

Palmer, Matanuska, Alaska

Mr. M. D. Snodgrass
Mrs. Margaret J. Snodgrass, his wife,
Palmer
Alaska

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Shodgrass:

Pursuant to the terms contained in the habendum clause of an indenture made the 10th day of February, A. D. 1936, between M. D. Snodgrass and Margaret J. Snodgrass, his wife, the parties of the first part, and Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, party of the second part, said indenture being recorded on the 27th day of February, 1936, in Book 14 of Precinct, at page 144, in the District Recorder's office, Anchorage, Alaska; said habendum clause reading in part as follows:

> "Provided, however, that in case the party of the second part desires to sell or dispose of the premises herein conveyed, the parties of the first part shall have a thirty days first option to purchase same, and shall be given due notice thereof in writing."

now, therefore, please be advised that the parties of the second part are desirous of conveying the property described in the hereinabove mentioned indenture to the Trustees of the United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska, or to a purchaser obtained by said trustees.

It is proposed that the proceeds of said sale are to be applied toward the erection of a manse for Mr. Bingle, our missionary.

Will you kindly signify, by signing the attached consent, that you approve of this procedure?

Sincerely yours,

C. N. Wonacott, Treasurer
by:
L. H. Tribus
L. H. Tribus, Assistant
to the Treasurer

LHT:EH
Enc.

M. D. Snodgrass and Margaret J. Snodgrass, his wife, do hereby consent to the sale of the following described property conveyed to the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America by an indenture dated the 10th day of February, A. D. 1936, and recorded on the 27th day of February, 1936, in Book 14 of Precinct, at page 144, in the District Recorder's office, Anchorage, Alaska:

"Situated in the Northwest quarter (NW¼) of the Northwest quarter (NW¼), of section four (4), Township seventeen (17) North, Range Two (2) East of the Seward Meridian, Territory of Alaska, and better described and known as follows, to-wit:

Lots numbered eleven (11) and twelve (12), in Block number two (2), of the M.D. Snodgrass addition to the Palmer Townsite, Palmer, Alaska."

to the Trustees of the United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska, or to any purchaser obtained by said Trustees, it being understood that the proceeds of said sale are to be used for the purpose of erecting a Church for [redacted] for the Community

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of:

M. D. Snodgrass. SEAL

C Earl Albrecht

Rev. B. J. Bingle

Margaret J Snodgrass SEAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

ss.

TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

This is to certify, that on this 6th day of January, A. D. 1937, before me the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for the Territory of Alaska, duly commissioned and sworn, personally came before me, M. D. Snodgrass, and Margaret J. Snodgrass, his wife, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within instrument, and they acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein stated.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 6th. day of January A. D. 1937.

Notary Public in and for the Territory of Alaska. My Commission expires April 24th, 1939.

Dec.
1st
1936

Rev. B. J. Bingle,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bingle:

The Building Department of our Board and Mr. Hart, who is our legal counsel, feel that it is very much better for the Board to convey the Snodgrass property directly to the purchaser because there would much red tape that would have to be gone through in order to convey it back to the trustees of our church at Palmer to be conveyed to the purchaser of the property. We are, therefore, holding the deed and will be prepared immediately to transfer the property on notice from you giving us the name of the purchaser and other necessary information regarding the sale. In order to expedite this matter, we will ask you to kindly have Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass each affix their signature to the enclosed paper, and to have two persons sign as witnesses of their signatures. Also please have this paper which Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass sign executed before a notary public and returned to us so that we will have it as our authority for the transfer of the property as soon as we receive word from you of the name of the person or persons to whom the property is to be conveyed, and stating that you have received the payment for the property which will be stated in the deed.

It is understood in executing this paper that the proceeds of the sale will be used toward the erection of a manse for the pastor of the church.

Our office which keeps the records of church buildings is not clear regarding the deed to the property on which your house stands. You have never sent us a deed for that property and we have nothing to show for the remittance of $500 which we sent you for the building of the house you have been occupying. I have informed the Treasurer's Office that the lots donated by Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass are not the lots on which your house is erected. Was I correct in this? If so, I will ask you to kindly send us a deed to the ground on which your manse is erected as it is necessary for the Board to have this conveyance in its records.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Form 35—Oct., '35—5M

MATANUSKA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Matanuska Colonization Project

PALMER, ALASKA

December 18, 1936.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

Several busy months have passed since we last spent a few minutes together at the home of Rev. Bingle. We have all looked upon that visit of yours with a great deal of pleasure and have regretted that more people did not have the opportunity of meeting you. Nevertheless, I feel that much was accomplished during your short stay. I believe that the reassurance you gave us was very valuable and that it bound us all together more firmly in the common cause.

Of course our great interest at this time is the construction and completion of the new church. Tonight, as I write, the men have erected the last main truss for the roof and by next week we hope to have most of the roof in place, providing the weather is favorable. The men have worked hard and have cooperated beautifully in an effort to finish the building so that we can have our Christmas service in it. I might say that although we have been forced to employ some laborers, there has been many days of labor contributed by the men of the congregation. They have worked hard in severe weather, and that has been very significant to me. Of course there are unexpected and unanticipated expenses arising, but there will be no difficulty in meeting those additional obligations.

Rev. Bingle has worked very hard. He has done good work in his pastoral office, and I believe the congregation is being more firmly united constantly. We are hoping and praying that our Christmas service will be successful. Tonight we are having our first choral rehearsal in preparation for Candle Light Christmas Service. I must plead guilty of introducing an old Moravian custom, a Candle Light Service of which you have undoubtedly heard, and it would be most beautiful if it could be held in our church.

Referring to the second paragraph of your letter, I wish to explain that the lots, #11 and #12, block #2 of the M. D. Snodgrass addition, were contributions

Form 35—Oct., '35—5M

MATANUSKA VALLEY HOSPITAL
Matanuska Colonization Project
PALMER, ALASKA

by Mr. and Mrs. Snodgrass to the building fund. At present you hold the deed for this property in your files, and it was our understanding when you left here that you re-deed this property back to our council so that we can then deed them to the present owners. We have endeavored to keep our funds strictly separate, that is a general fund and a church building fund. Nothing has been said or done about the construction of a manse, therefore the sum of $500.00 already appropriated for the manse cannot be drawn from the sale of those two lots. The matter of the $500.00 can be discussed at a later time, that is when we begin work for the construction of a manse.

Your third paragraph makes inquiry regarding the holding of the deed of the church site. We have a lease for that land for which we paid $10.00 in the name of National Missions and the United Protestant Church of Palmer, a dual ownership as is evident. I see no reason why this cannot be kept in the files in New York City. As you understand we are obligated to complete the church building within six months after which a deed will be given in the name of the Board of National Missions and the United Protestant Church. When this is executed we will forward the same to be held in your files.

I believe I fully explained the matter in regard to the Snodgrass lots. If these matters are not correct or not clear, kindly advise us in the near future.

Very truly yours,

C. Earl Albrecht

CEA:B

C. Earl Albrecht.

THE UNITED PROTESTANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
PALMER, ALASKA.
Jan. 5, 1937.

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,
Board of National Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

New Year's Greetings: Received your letter of Dec. 1. Am sorry I have not been able to make ourselves clear regarding this Property here at Palmer. I will repeat, setting it forth point by point.

1st. Palmer Proper is divided into two sections. Privately owned property and that which is held by the Federal Government, through the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. At our first coming to Palmer in May 1935, we were denied the privilege of locating on Government land due to such an influx of Preachers from everywhere, hence a plot of land for camping site was loaned by James Felton. This plot was too small and too distent from the Town center as constructed by the Government, so in August 1935 M.D. Snodgrass, the Government still holding us off their property, loaned to us a plot 50 X 75 for the erection of our manse, the manse later to be moved when a permanent location could be secured. Hence the land on which the manse rests is not ours, never was nor apparently at this date will be unless we pay $500.00 for the same. That is not even to be considered. Therefore we cannot send you a title to something we do not own.

2nd. Around the 1st. of January, 1936, M.D. Snodgrass, when it looked as if the Government would give us no location, donated to the local church, two lots--Nos. 11 and 12, block 2 in the Snodgrass addition--on which the Church was to be erected and onto which the manse was to be moved. This location is just one block south of where the manse is now located on borrowed land. For various reasons it was felt that the deeds for these two lots be [illegible] and handed into your office by myself after being filed in the Commissioner's office in Anchorage.

[illegible] lease is now also in your office.

4th. When it was learned by M.D. Snodgrass, the donor of the two lots mentioned under Sec. 2 of this letter, that the Government had given us a plot of land for Church and manse purposes he stated, since his deed to the Board was that if property was not used for Church purposes it was to be reclaimed by himself or given a first option on the same, that those two lots should be sold and the funds used to erect the Church building, this being his donation. This then was taken up with you during your visit when we had dinner at the manse and given the official O.K., only you asked to be allowed to redeed the land, saving office complications. We acted on the matter, sold the two lots and the proceeds for the same has been used in construction our Church. Some of the proceeds were in cash, most of it in labor by purchasers. We needed more labor than donations to hasten the completion of the Church and the purchaser found himself temporarily without employment after he made a substantial payment. It assisted both. You will find papers enclosed regarding these lots and by whom purchased. These lots have been practically paid for in full, but would suggest you forward deeds through us, for our holding the same till payment is in full, or you may hold both deeds till paid in full, when we will notify you accordingly. But as agreed during your visit, the proceeds are to be used for the erection of the Church, not the manse as stated in the December letter.

5th. This then leaves the manse, a building erected with $500.00 from you and about $300.00 from here, over half of the last being mine, besides much labor donation, sitting out here on a small plot of borrowed land. Some action must be taken soon, either as to its sale or removal to the Government Church site. Since last is very difficult due to distance and condition of location it was thought best and agreed upon by our local Board, M.D. Snodgrass and yourself that manse be allowed to set where it is till spring, then moved or sold. It was further agreed that the proceeds from the sale of the manse up to your $500.00 be used for the erection of the new manse. It is at this point that there may be confusion. Proceeds from the two lots goes to erect the Church. Proceeds from the sale of the manse up to $500.00 goes to the erection of the manse. Again the land on which the manse now sits is not ours and I do not know what papers we can give you which will clear up your files, except an acknowledged receipt of $500.00 being used at this time for a temporary manse--a building worth your estimate as listed in the Assembly minutes.--Correspondence will be had later to clear up the matter of the manse as to its final disposition.

6th. The work on the Church is being pushed as rapidly as possible. We have worked in temperatures 10 degrees below zero and only two days did we lay off entirely and that was when the temperature ran between 35 to 40 degrees below zero. You would be surprised to learn how little it warms up in the daytime too. Due to the intense cold we are considering hiring two more men besides the head man now being paid, to put on the roof and finish operations. It will not take long if such is done but our absence of finance is worrying me a trifle. When completed there will be a building here that you can be proud of. You willfurther be surprised at the donated labor on same. We will keep you informed on our progress. I enclosed some snaps in a previous letter as to its present status.

We hope this will give you information needed and we are sending an extra copy for the Property Custodian's office, I believe as he also wrote relative to the matter.

Again best wishes to you and the National Missions force [illegible].

Sincerely yours,

Rev. B.J. Bingle

THE UNITED PROTESTANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
PALMER, ALASKA.
Jan. 6, 1937.

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,
Board of National Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

New Year's Greetings: Received your letter of Dec. 1. Am sorry I have not been able to make ourselves clear regarding this Property here at Palmer. I will repeat, setting it forth point by point.

1st. Palmer proper is divided into two sections. Privately owned property and that which is held by the Federal Government, through the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. At our first coming to Palmer in May 1935, we were denied the privilege of locating on Government land due to such an influx of Preachers from everywhere, hence a plot of land for camping site was loaned by James Felton. This plot was too small and too distant from the Town center as constructed by the Government, so in August 1935 M.D. Snodgrass, the Government still holding us off their property, loaned to us a plot 50 X 75 for the erection of our mansc, the mansc later to be moved when a permanent location could be secured. Hence the land on which the mansc rests is not ours, never was nor apparently at this date will be unless we pay $500.00 for the same. That is not even to be considered. Therefore we cannot send you a title to something we do not own.

2nd. Around the 1st. of January, 1936, M.D. Snodgrass, when it looked as if the Government would give us no location, donated to the local church, two lots--Nos. 11 and 12, block 2 in the Snodgrass addition--on which the Church was to be erected and onto which the mansc was to be moved. This location is just one block south of where the mansc is now located on borrowed land. For various reasons it was felt that the deeds for these two lots be made out in the name of the Board of National Missions, which was done and handed into your office by myself after being filed in the Commissioner's office in Anchorage.

3rd. While I was at General Assembly this year, through the energetic work of Dr. C.F. Albrecht and Don L. Irwin, former Colony Manager, the Government gave us a plot of land back of the Hospital, adjacent to a plot given to both the Lutheran and Catholic Churches. The first papers to be drawn up were to be a lease for six months duration, dated from Sept. 1st, followed by a deed to the land after we showed our good intention by building a church on the same, the building to be complete and come up to certain specifications. That lease is now also in your office.

4th. When it was learned by M.D. Snodgrass, the donor of the two lots mentioned under Sec. 3 of this letter, that the Government had given us a plot of land for Church and manse purposes he stated, since his deed to the Board was that if property was not used for Church purposes it was to be reclaimed by himself or given a first option on the same, that those two lots should be sold and the funds used to erect the Church building, this being his donation. This then was taken up with you during your visit when we had dinner at the manse and given the official O.K., only you asked to be allowed to redeed the land, saving office complications. We acted on the matter, sold the two lots and the proceeds for the same has been used in construction our Church. Some of the proceeds were in cash, most of it in labor by purchasers. We needed more labor than donations to hasten the completion of the Church and the purchaser found himself temporarily without employment after he made a substantial payment. It assisted both. You will find papers enclosed regarding these lots and by whom purchased. These lots have been practically paid for in full, but would suggest you forward deeds through us, for our holding the same till payment is in full, or you may hold both deeds till paid in full, when we will notify you accordingly. But as agreed during your visit, the proceeds are to be used for the erection of the Church, not the manse as stated in the December letter.

5th. This then leaves the manse, a building erected with $500.00 from you and about $300.00 from here, over half of the last being mine, besides much labor donation, sitting out here on a small plot of borrowed land. Some action must be taken soon, either as to its sale or removal to the Government Church site. Since last is very difficult due to distance and condition of location it was thought best and agreed upon by our local Board, M.D. Snodgrass and yourself that manse be allowed to set where it is till spring, then moved or sold. It was further agreed that the proceeds from the sale of the manse up to your $500.00 be used for the erection of the new manse. It is at this point that there may be confusion. Proceeds from the two lots goes to erect the Church. Proceeds from the sale of the manse up to $500.00 goes to the erection of the manse. Again the land on which the manse now sits is not ours and I do not know what papers we can give you which will clear up your files, except an acknowledged receipt of $500.00 being used at this time for a temporary manse--a building worth your estimate as listed in the Assembly minutes.--Correspondence will be had later to clear up the matter of the manse as to its final disposition.

6th. The work on the Church is being pushed as rapidly as possible. We have worked in temperatures 10 degrees below zero and only two days did we lay off entirely and that was when the temperature run between 35 to 40 degrees below zero. You would be surprised to learn how little it warms up in the daytime too. Due to the intense cold we are considering hiring two more men besides the head man now being paid, to put on the roof and finish operations. It will not take long if such is done but our absence of finance is worrying us a trifle. When completed there will be a building here that you can be proud of. You willfurther be surprised at the donated labor on same. We will keep you informed on our progress. I enclosed some snaps in a previous letter as to its present status.

We hope this will give you information needed and we are sending an extra copy for the Property Custodian's office, I believe as he also wrote relative to the matter.

Again best wishes to you and the National Missions force there.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. B. J. Bingle

On the _____ day of _____, Mr. and Mrs. _____ Snodgrass conveyed by deed dated _____ a certain piece of real property located in the Matanuska Valley Colony, Alaska, to the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., with the understanding that this property was to be held by said Board for the benefit of the building fund of the new Presbyterian church there. The church has requested an immediate transfer of this property to them.

In view of the urgency of the case, the deed was conveyed, and it is now recommended that the action of the officers of the Board in making this conveyance be approved.

Jan.
22nd
1937

Dr. C. Earl Albrecht,
Matanuska Valley Hospital,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Doctor Albrecht:

Thank you very much for your good letter of December 18th. I have been visualizing the Christmas celebration in your new church at Palmer, and I feel sure that it must have been a time of great rejoicing to you all.

In accordance with your desire, I am asking the officers of our Board to execute the deed which you desire covering the property which Mr. Snodgrass conveyed to us for safe keeping. I am enclosing the deed herewith, which I trust will be satisfactory.

We can take up the matter of the erection of the manse when the way is clear. I fear, however, that it will not be possible for us to appropriate any money for this purpose until next Fall because we are working on very narrow margins just now. Contributions to our Board are not as generous as we had hoped they would be and they have not yet begun to reflect the economic recovery which seems to be apparent in the business world.

I appreciate your assurance that you will send us the deed to the lot on which the church stands, which we can keep in our files. According to the customary procedure, in cases where our Board makes a grant for the erection of a church building, the deed is filed with us. The grant is not an obligation which needs to be paid unless of course the church at any time should become affiliated with some other denomination; and in that event, the Board would expect that the amount which we have granted would be refunded; but I am sure that there is no possibility of such a contingency.

I was sorry to learn of the new government regulations which I fear are going to be rather discouraging to the residents of the resettlement colony. I hope that the regulation prohibiting the use of the busses on Sunday can be modified in some way so that people who live at a distance from the church, and especially their children, will not be deprived of transportation to the church and Sunday school services. With kindest regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Palmer, alaska

Jan 27 - 1937

Dr. John M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike:

Have enclosed the deed we wrote up here for the lot that Chas. Svaboda purchased. As I have no need of the same for our change in handling the purchase I forward same for information purposes. The lot has now been paid for in full & Mr. Svaboda is anxious to get the title to the same. I presume you have already cared for the first lot sold to Clarence Iverson as I wrote you on last mail out. That property has of course been paid for, in case my letter went astray; & he would like his deed also.

I am also enclosing letter from firm in Seattle about those Windows @ $4.26. The bill was O.K.'d - signed & sent in at the same time with the 1st Shondeck bill which payment came there immediately. There must be some error somewhere regarding this payment. You can inform me whether or not you paid the same. Hope if not you can care for same without having us resign as I dislike any bill against the church of that long duration unsettled.

Our men folks here have surely done a marvelous piece of work on that building. Hard, long & cold hours - but the spirit is great. I want a letter

to Miss Bradley in response to an inquiry relative to Senator Thomas's statement on the colony or Alaska - also the play - "200 Were Chosen." - You can believe from those impressions hurt things that are good. I have asked her to show you the letter. My writing is fierce but I had to do it after midnight to make down mail and my typewriter is a the home for our members getting some church material out.

The colony itself is entering the difficult part of its history. The Govt was wont to cut them off 18 months after its initiation rather than 3 years and such would have been tragic. But by the great effort of our manager who went to Washington he was able to get from Ickes enuf to put them thru till Sept. 1st. I personally believe that is O.K. This place is now down to a business basis and those that are worth while are determined to get enuf provisions for family & stock to put them thru next winter. In my mind there is no doubt but that they can do it. You will be hearing in the papers soon about a number going back. That too is O.K. but that going will not effect our church as they never have affiliated with anything of the community. Our people are to my observation the best in the Valley & they will remain almost 100% first. The Govt idea that anyone can be a farmer - and a pioneer farmer at that - is sure not puncture proof. If you get a chance to see any one in influence in Wash. try getting them to stay by the money worth while folk they sent up here. It will be worth the effort.

Thanks again for your last helpfulness,

Sincerely, B. J. Bingle

P.S. due to utter impossibility of business & hurt from all R.C. - ?- we are just going for ourselves - nothing else.

W. P. FULLER & CO.

PAINTS · VARNISHES · LACQUERS
PIONEER WHITE LEAD
GLASS · SASH & DOORS

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

FACTORIES
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO.
LOS ANGELES
PORTLAND

BRANCHES AND DEALERS
THROUGHOUT
THE WEST

G.W. FELDMANN,
MANAGER

January 6, 1937

Mr. B. J. Bingle
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Your card of December 3rd asked us to inform you as to whether or not Dr. Somerndike had paid us for the windows, amounting to $84.26.

This has not been done and we are, therefore, giving you this information.

Yours truly,

W. P. FULLER & CO.

Lloyd D. Coer

Credit Manager

LBC:C

$225.00 Palmer, Alaska, October ....., 1936.

After date, without grace, I promise to pay to the order of BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, at Palmer, Alaska, Two hundred Twenty-Five and no/100 ($225.00) Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, as follows, to-wit; eleven and 25/100 ($11.25) dollars per month on the first day of each and every month until paid, commencing with the 1st day of November, 1936, with interest thereon in like money at the rate of six (6%) per centum per annum, until paid. Interest payable on all deferred payments on the 1st day of each and every month until paid, commencing with the 1st day of November, 1936. And in case suit or action is instituted to collect this note, or any portion thereof, I promise to pay such additional sum as the Court may adjudge reasonable as attorney's fees in said suit or action.

Palmer, Alaska, October ..... 1936.

Mr. B. J. Bingle,

Palmer, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith deed from BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, to myself, for Lot No. 12, in Block No. 2, of the M. D. SNODGRASS addition to the Palmer Townsite, Palmer, Alaska, to be held by you in Escrow until certain conditions are fulfilled. When these conditions are complied with the deed is to be turned over to me; otherwise the deed must be returned to the grantor.

The conditions are embodied in the attached note and must all be fulfilled. And time is declared to be of the essence of all the payments enumerated therein.

Thanking you in advance for looking after this matter, I am,

Yours truly,

THIS INDENTURE, made this ..... day of October, A. D. 1936, by and between BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, party of the first part, and Charles G. Swaboda, party of the second part. - The Purchaser of this Lot. B.H.

WITNESSETH: That the party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and no/100 ($300.00) dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, the following described real estate, situated in the Northwest quarter (NW¼), of the Northwest quarter (NW¼), of Section four (4), Township Seventeen (17) North, Range Two (2) East of the Seward Meridian, Territory of Alaska, and better described and known as follows, to-wit:

Lot number Twelve (12), in Block number Two (2), of the M. D. Snodgrass addition to the Palmer Townsite, Palmer, Alaska,

together with all the singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, free and clear of all incumbrances, liens and mortgages, of any nature or kind, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns forever.

And we do hereby, for ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said grantee, his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee of the granted premises; that they are free and clear from all incumbrances, that we have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid, and that we will, and our heirs, executors and administrators shall, warrant and defend the same to the said grantee, his heirs and assigns, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the party of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seal this day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of,

_____ _____
BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

_____ _____
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

_____
IN THE UNITED STATES

(SEAL)

_____
OF AMERICA

By _____
President.

By _____
Secretary.

_____

SS.

_____

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that on this ..... day of October, A. D. 1936, before me the undersigned, a _____, in and for the State of _____, duly commissioned and sworn, personally came, _____ President, and _____ Secretary, respectively of the BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, a Corporation, to me known to be the President and Secretary of said Corporation, and that the seal affixed to said instrument is the corporate seal of said corporation, and that the said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of said corporation by authority of its board of directors, and said _____ _____ President and _____ Secretary acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of said corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this ..... day of October, A. D. 1936.

(SEAL) _____

Form 35—Oct., '35—5M

MATANUSKA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Matanuska Colonization Project

PALMER, ALASKA

March 31 1937

Dear Dr Somerndike,

It is with a great deal of pleasure to write and report at this time that we have begun to see the completion of the task of building our church for this community. We have held two services already and they have been a great joy to us all.

Although the entire permanent floor is not in as yet nor do we have an adequate heating plant,we have been able to hold regular services. Palm Sunday saw a big crowd present as did Easter Sunday. Easter had a church service of over 160 and we saw then that our building was not going to be too large.

But I must report a tentative financial report and make a few requests as well as ask for suggestions.

A fact which always devlops during the construction of such buildings as churches and many other construction jobs is that the unexpected arises and estimates are usually far too short.

This arose for us too soon. We realized that we had about one third enough logs cut for the specifications(and already I am happy we did not waver and reduce the size) Ordinarily this would not have been serious for we could have merely gone out and cut down more trees. But we had to get them into the mill in rush time. This made it absolutely necessary for us to hire labor for the work in large crews. The reason for this was that the corporation was closing the mill and moving it out of the area where we had our logs. In fact they held it over nearly one week for us as it was.

Again we had not planned on hiring a foreman. We found that was also essential and we now know it was the wise move. This ceost additional. When the cold winter weather was in force the hard roof work was ready. It did not seem wise to the committee to ask for volunteer help so again we hired men to do that special work. Incidentally those same men doubled their contributions.

To make a long story short "extras" explain the financial report I am sending you. Nevertheless we estimated about a 10,000.00 building and we were not far wrong.

Form 35—Oct., '35—5M

MATANUSKA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Matanuska Colonization Project

PALMER, ALASKA

You will note that we have paid locally 3365.84. A little better than half or1755.76 of that amount has been raised in cash locally. The remainder or 1610.08 is still and outstanding loan as itemized. In addition to that cash amount the big item of donated labor amonts to 260678,donated food for laborers 108.00,don ted transprotation 186.42 and the difficult figure to determine,namely the logs has been estimated at 1250.00(far too little I think)

Thus to date we have already taken care oflocally(exclusive of loans) a grand total of 5,906.96.

You will have taken care of 1500.00.

This leaves a balance of 2,325.23. Made up of loans and unpaid bills.

I really believe that you will react favorably with this report. I am not in the least bit fearful that our local church cannot carry on and pay this balance in the next few years.

The spirit is grand and when tell you that the attendance on Easter was some better that 160 and then tell you that the total offerring for the day which was voted for the Building Fund amounted to $135.00-- you will not be too greatly alarmed.

Of course we must carry on and work. Besides we are not altogether finished. Our chief concern being the heating system.

As you note in the report we have borrowed from three sources. I have been requested to write and find out if the Trustees of the United Protestant Church Inc., could borrow 2,325.23 from the Presbyterian Board. This would mean that our indebtedness then would be all in one place. We then would repay from time to time on that loan. This request may be presuming a great deal but if this is possible please notify us as soon as possible. We are anxious to pay the balance of our indebetedness to the Corporation so that we can get the deed definetly in our hands.

Kindly write me in detail your own and the Boards reaction in all these matters.

Let us truly rejoice that our place of worship has been made possible to such an extent. And may the Lord Bless it to the advancement of His Kingdom here in the Valley.

By the way that loan if it is granted need not be at full amount for we are raising some money here from time to time.

With very best wishes and my own kindest personal regards,I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Earl Albrecht

Money Paid On Bills Thru Gifts And Loans By Local Church Building Committee

Labor	1754.90	
Skidding-hauling-tractor	730.75	
A. R. R. Freight	96.64	
Stoves-material & labor	41.70	
Material	30.50	
Piano & Organ	206.15	
Communication	5.20	
Corporation	500.00	3365.84
Bills Paid Thru N. Y.		
Fuller Co.	84.26	
Corp. not yet in	339.60	
Shonbeck	938.54	
N.C. Co.	137.60	1500.00
Time Donated To Building	2606.78	
Food Donated For Men	108.00	
Transportation-miscellaneous	186.42	
Materials-miscellaneous bldg.	1250.00	4151.20
Bills Yet To Pay		715.15
Value Of Building ----------		$ 9732.19

Amounts Borrowed:		Bills Unpaid:	
First National Bank-Anchorage	1000.00	A. A. Shonbeck	386.58
Dr. C. Earl Albrecht	100.00	A.R.R.C.	307.57
Rev. B. J. Bingle	510.08	Luthern Church	2.00
	$1610.08	Catholic Church	19.00
			$715.15

April 12, 1937

The Council of the United Protestant Church Inc. agrees to the following, and has authorized the undersigned to so represent them by their signatures:

(1) Acceptance of additional $1700.00 grant from the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

(2) Agrees to begin October 1, 1937, to refund this amount over a period of five years, to the amount of $340.00 annually, but payable directly to the pastor as a portion of his salary in monthly payments.

(3) Agrees to give a mortgage on the property.

(4) Agrees to deposit the deed thereof in the files of the Board.

(5) Agrees to continue the drive for additional funds to clear up all debts on the new church building.

SIGNED:

C Earl Albrecht

Emil F. Walter

Carl F. Ericsson

RECEIVED AT

STANDARD TIME INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial Cables | All America Cables | Mackay Radio

TELEGRAMS CABLEGRAMS RADIOGRAMS

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

KA52 50 NL VIA SEATTLE

1937 APR 13 AM 5 20

ANCHORAGE ALASKA 12

J M SOMERNDIKE

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS 156 5 AVE NYC

PRESPYTERY YUKON ENROLLED UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH PALMER DEDICATING BUILDING INSTALLING REV GINBLE PASTOR YESTERDAY SERVICES LOVELY PEOPLE RESPONSIVE ENTHUSIASTIC BETTER TWO HUNDRED ATTENDANCE SUGGEST SINCE GOVERNMENT CORPORATION DIRECTORS MEET TWO WEEKS REMITTANCE THREE THIRTY NINE REMAINING OF GRANT TO ALASKA RURAL REHABILITATION CORPORATION AIR MAIL CLEARING INDEBTEDNESS TO OBTAIN DEED

REV JOHN E YOUEL NATIONAL MISSIONS COM.

The Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

DIVISION OF
BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

April 22, 1937

Rev. R. J. Bingle
Matanuska Valley
Alaska

MATANUSKA VALLEY, ALASKA
CHURCH

Dear Brother:-

The application of the Presbyterian Church in Matanuska Valley, Alaska for a grant of $ 1,700 additional , to aid in the erection of new church building, was presented to the Board at a meeting held April 22,23, 1937 ~~193~~

The Board voted to make a grant of $ 1,700. , subject to the following conditions: in addition to $1,500 already put into this building from the National Missions Building Funds, Board to receive mortgage for $3,200. total.

1. That the Deed to the property is in fee-simple, with no restrictions or reversionary features.
2. That the Trustees will secure all the cash needed towards cost of said church building except the Board's appropriation, before asking the Board to pay its appropriation, and will have applied it on the building or improvement.
3. That the Church will, by its authorized Officers, give the Board a first Mortgage to secure the Denomination's funds in the event of alienation of property, abandonment or sale; and to secure the repayment of loan.
4. That the Board's investment in the property shall be protected by a policy of Insurance to be supplied by the Church or to be taken out by the Board, the Church to pay the premium.

If you will notify me about a month before the money is needed, the necessary blanks, such as Trustee's Certificate, Insurance Survey and the Mortgage will be forwarded

In behalf of the Board, and with best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A. B. Keeler, Secretary
Building Aid Funds

P.S. We will have to have copy of the deed, which we understand is vested in local congregation

ABK:IBK

April 23rd, 1937

Dr. C. Earl Albrecht
Matanuska Valley Hospital
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Dr. Albrecht:

I have given careful consideration to your letter of recent date, and knowing that the semi-annual meeting of our Board was to be held today and tomorrow, I delayed replying until that meeting because I had no authority, as you must know, to make any grants of the Board's funds without an action of the Board.

After carefully considering the situation and keeping in mind your statement that the church could be depended upon to raise a part of the deficit, I have asked the Board to make an additional grant of $1,700 which is in addition to our former grant of $1,500, making a total of $3,200 that is available toward the liquidation of the indebtedness which has been incurred in erecting the new church building. This will enable you to pay most of the bills and if it is used as a challenge fund, and if the matter is presented to the congregation as a challange to raise the remainder of the amount necessary to pay off the last dollar of indebtedness, you can very readily clear up all outstanding bills.

However, the Board felt that since you so graciously suggested that the additional financial assistance which we should give might be regarded as a loan, we will ask you to make refund of this amount of $1,700 in the form of an annual contribution of $340 beginning October 1st, 1937 toward the support of your pastor. We understand that the congregation is already giving Mr. Bingle $25 a month in addition to the salary which the Board is paying him. We would like your congregation, beginning October 1st, to increase the amount which you will give him by $340 per year, or approximately $30 per month additional. We will deduct this from the salary which we pay to Mr. Bingle, making our payments to him at the rate of $1,160 per year instead of $1,500, since he will be receiving the difference of $340 per year from you as the refund of this amount which we are advancing you now to liquidate the indebtedness on the building.

It is understood that the deed to the property will be given by the corporation to the Trustees of the United Protestant Church, Inc. In consideration of the total which the Board has advanced; namely, $3,200, we will be obliged to take a mortgage of that amount on the property. It is understood, however, that this mortgage will not be foreclosed unless the church ceases to be affiliated with the Presbytery of Yukon, or unless the building ceases to be used as a church. The mortgage is taken simply to protect the Board's contribution, owing to the fact that the money from which this contribution is taken comes out of trust funds, and our auditors require that a mortgage be filed in all such cases. We will ask you also to see that the property is insured in order to protect the church and the Board for the amount that has been invested in it. The Board must also have a copy of the deed. Will you kindly see that we receive such a copy as soon as the deed has been given by the Alaska Rural Resettlement Corporation?

Now if you will kindly write me a letter, signed by the Trustees of the church, agreeing to the acceptance of this additional amount of $1,700, and agreeing beginning October 1st to refund this amount over a period of five years by making an additional contribution of approximately $30 a month toward the salary of Mr. Bingle, and agreeing further to give the Board a mortgage on the property as is required under the rules governing the use of our trust funds, and promising to deposit with us a copy of the deed to the property as soon as you receive the deed from the corporation, we will make arrangements to remit this amount of $1,700, thus enabling you to clear up your indebtedness.

We would like if possible to have assurance given to us in this official communication from your Trustees that the congregation has voted to put on a financial drive at once to raise the remainder of the amount necessary to clear up all their debts.

In obtaining this consideration for your church, I feel that I should remind you that it has been necessary for us to waive rules which the Board has always very meticulously insisted upon in connection with all such matters. I say this simply to give you and the congregation the assurance that our Board is very sympathetic toward the efforts which your congregation is making, that we want to encourage you, and that we are inclined to do everything possible, even to the temporary suspension of rules, in order to enable you to build up your church in a successful way.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

Dictated 4/22/37

Form 35—Oct., '35—5M

MATANUSKA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Matanuska Colonization Project

PALMER, ALASKA

May 12, 1937.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your welcome letter of April 23rd has been presented to the entire council. It was carefully presented, discussed and considered.

We were all greatly pleased with the gracious offer and there was a general individual expression of thanks, satisfaction and a feeling that you and your associates have a great deal of faith in us.

It resulted in a stimulus and a desire to do more towards local support. Several said it was good business to accept your proposal, and, furthermore, served as a splendid means for us to become more self-supporting.

May I assure you the response was most encouraging. I do not believe we are accepting too great a responsibility. It is true that we are facing two years of difficult times in this project with many of the salaried people leaving and the colonists living on meager finances. But we are aware of that and still want to accept your proposal and get right down to business and liquidate all indebtedness.

It may seem as though we were asking one favor after another, but I must have your statement as soon as possible regarding the construction of a manse.

You will recall that you felt we could obtain the funds for the manse in 1938. It is true we have a building, but it has no conveniences as you know, and furthermore, it must be moved from its present site at once. In fact by the time you have this letter it will have been moved about 35 feet in order to permit the cutting through of a street.

But at present we are discussing the advisability of moving this manse to the church lot and reconstructing it to match the church. It has its arguments, pro and con. Just now as much as that would be desirable we cannot afford to do it now for we are making efforts to raise more money for the church debt.

Form 35—Oct., '35—5M

MATANUSKA VALLEY HOSPITAL
Matanuska Colonization Project
PALMER, ALASKA

What we desire at present is your reassured promise for help in building the manse. When we have that we can then make more careful and practical plans here.

Herewith is a statement of our agreement as you requested.

Thank you again for your help, both in the name of the Council and from me personally.

Faithfully yours,

C. Earl Albrecht

C. Earl Albrecht

P.S. Great News! We have raised enough money locally in the last few weeks to complete the payments to the Corporation and have in our hands the signed deed for the property. Praise God!

C E Albrecht

May
24th
1937

Mr. C. Earl Albrecht,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

Your letter of May 12th has been received during Dr. Somerndike's absence from the office, attending the meeting of the General Assembly, and we are obliged to hold it until his return, about June 3rd. However, at that time we shall bring it to his immediate attention and he will undoubtedly write you.

Very sincerely yours,

BH Secretary to Dr. Somerndike.

June
3rd
1937

Mr. C. Earl Albrecht,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Albrecht:

I am so glad to receive your letter of May 12th, and I wish you would convey to your congregation this expression of our Board's appreciation of the fine spirit in which they accepted the proposal which we made for an additional grant of $1700 on the condition that they begin October 1st, 1937, to refund this amount over a period of five years without any interest, paying the amount in monthly installments to your minister, Mr. Bingle.

I take advantage of this opportunity to express to you our sincere appreciation of the fine spirit which has been manifested by your congregation since the beginning of our work in the Matanuska Colony. It has been one of the most gratifying experiences in my administrative work to negotiate with the members of your splendid Council and with you personally.

We shall send you a check for $1700 in order to enable you to make the necessary payments, and we will ask you to kindly deposit the deed with us in accordance with our proposals.

With reference to the matter of building a manse, I am not able to make a definite promise of the amount of cash that our Board will appropriate for that purpose just now, but we will take it up in the Fall if it is agreeable to you, and I think that there is every prospect that we shall then be in a position to make a definite appropriation. In the meantime, we would like to have a statement as to the amount of money that will be necessary in order to erect the house this Fall. It ought not to be a large house. You will keep in mind, I am sure, the Board's financial limitations and make your plans as modestly as may be consistent with good judgment and sound common sense, as you have always done.

With kind regards and sincere thanks, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

June 10, 1937

Rev. B. J. Bingle
Matanuska Valley
Alaska

Matanuska Valley, Alaska

My dear Mr. Bingle:

The Board at its April meeting, as you no doubt have been informed, voted an additional grant of $1700 for the purpose of aiding in the establishment of our church in Matanuska Valley. This makes a total grant of $3200 in return for which amount the church is to execute to the Board a grant mortgage of $3200.

I am sure that you understand the terms of a grant mortgage, but in order to refresh your recollection, may I emphasize the fact that a grant mortgage of the type used by the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America need never be repaid unless the church ceases to function as a Presbyterian Church, is sold or abandoned, in which event the mortgage is satisfied from the sale of the real property and interest is charged at the rate of 6% from the date of the mortgage. These grant mortgages are merely a security to guard the Board's invested funds if the church ceases to function. They impose no personal liability upon the church or the members.

I am enclosing herewith a grant mortgage in which I have filled in the amount of $3200. This mortgage should contain a correct description of the property, taken from the deed, and should be signed by the President of the Board of Trustees in the presence of two witnesses, and should bear the corporate seal. The President's signature should also be acknowledged, and you will note a form for acknowledgement directly underneath the words "President of the Board of Trustees." Turning over the mortgage you will note on the back page thereof a certificate to be signed by an attorney after the execution and recording of the mortgage.

I am also enclosing herewith a trustees' qualifying certificate which should be filled out and signed by all the Trustees and should in all respects conform to the statements in the application.

You will also find enclosed a church building application, which should be filled in and properly executed, and should, as I said before, conform to the statement in the trustees' qualifying certificate.

An insurance survey is also enclosed and should be filled in and returned to the Board, together with the qualifying certificate, the application, the deed, and the grant mortgage.

I would suggest that you return the grant mortgage properly filled out and executed to me for review. If it is correct, I shall then return it to you in order that it may be recorded. After the recording of the mortgage if you send me the mortgage showing that it has been duly recorded, I will file the same in our records and will be in a position to send you the $1700 immediately, providing the the application and the trustees' qualifying certificate conform.

There is one other matter to which I wish to call your attention and that is this: Doctor Somerndike has advised me that the church has very considerately taken title to the church property, not only in its own name but in the name of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. I am sure the Board greatly appreciates such a gesture of cooperation and honesty of intent, but under our rules we are not ordinarilly allowed to accept title to church property because of the fact that in all cases where an institution of this size owns real estate, it becomes necessary for us to take out liability insurance to protect ourselves against law suits which might be forthcoming as the result of unforeseen injury on the premises. For this reason we own as little property as possible and endeavor to dispose of what we do own at the first opportunity.

It will therefore be necessary for me, when I receive the dedd to forward to you to be recorded a quit-claim deed reconveying the interest of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the Matanuska Valley Church to the Church. We shall be amply protected by our grant mortgage in the event of a dissolution of the Church. I hope my explanation of our reason for not accepting the title is clear and that you will thank the good people of the Church for their kindly intentions.

In closing may I assure you that I shall do everything at this end to cooperate with you and to hurry matters along. May I remind you that we have not yet received the deed to the manse property for which the Board advanced $500. In this particular case, we were to receive the deed.

Cordially yours,

C. N. Wonacott, Treasurer
by:

L. H. Tribus, Assistant
to the Treasurer

LHT:CS

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

June 10, 1937

Memorandum

From Mr. Tribus
To Dr. Somerndike
Re: Matanuska Valley, Alaska

In accordance with our conversation of June 7th, I conferred with Mr. Hart concerning the proposed grant of $1,700 to the church in Matanuska Valley.

Mr. Hart advises me that he will not accept deed to the church in Matanuska Valley taken jointly in the name of the church and the Board of National Missions. It will, therefore, be necessary upon receipt of the joint deed, for the Board to immediately quit claim its portion and for the quit claim deed to be recorded.

We can then take back a grant mortgage (with counsel's certificate attached thereto), together with the other necessary papers. The mortgage, of course, will have to be recorded and returned to this Board.

We shall then be in a position to forward a check in the amount of $1,700.

L. H. Tribus

LHT:EH
Att. (copy of letter)

June
18th
1937

Rev. B. J. Bingle,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Bingle:

Will you please tell Dr. Albrecht that there will be a slight delay in the Board's payment of our additional grant of $1700 due to the fact that our Building Aid Division does not want to have any part in the ownership of the church property at Matanuska Valley. It appears that the Board does not want to assume any liability for ownership in church buildings except where it is absolutely necessary, preferring that the title remain invested in the trustees of the local church and simply a grant mortgage taken by the Board to cover the amount of its donation.

Mr. Tribus has written you under date of June 10th, informing you as to the course to be pursued. You understand, first of all, that the mortgage does not have to be paid off. It simply represents a security which the Board is obliged to have for money which it spends out of trust funds. It stands as an obligation against the property, but it will never be foreclosed unless the church should be disbanded and the building used for some other purpose. Mr. Tribus has informed you in his letter as to the way in which the grant mortgage should be written out, with the signature of the President of your Board of Trustees, etc. I hope that you will fill out this paper, following his instructions carefully, and send it to us as quickly as possible. Upon its receipt the remittance of $1700 will be sent immediately.

When you send us the deed to the property along with the other papers Mr. Tribus will send you a quit claim deed, re-conveying the interest of the Board of National Missions in the property to the Trustees of the church.

I hope everything is clear. This letter is written simply to clarify your mind.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

July 29, 1937

Memorandum

From Mr. Tribus
To Dr. Somerndike
Re: Palmer, Matanuska Valley, Alaska

I am attaching hereto check in the amount of $1,700 made payable to the United Protestant Church, Inc., Palmer, Alaska which I understand you desire to send forward.

Inasmuch as the Board is joint owner of the property we have this day taken out $3,200 fire insurance on the church building under the Board's insurance schedule.

L. H. Tribus

EH
Att.

July
30th
1937

Dr. C. Earl Albrecht,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Doctor Albrecht:

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith our Board's check for $1700 made payable to the United Protestant Church of Palmer, which represents the payment which we promised to make to liquidate the indebtedness on the church building, in accordance with our recent correspondence. I am sorry for the delay in the payment of this check, but it was due to circumstances beyond my control. A question arose here with reference to the title to the property. I have insisted that the property be held by our Board of National Missions, and the Board has finally agreed to retain the title to the property. The plan suggested in the letter you received from Mr. Tribus has been abandoned. We think that for the present it is better for our Board to retain the title to the property rather than to go through the tortuous proceeding of executing the deed back to your Trustees and executing mortgage papers to cover the $3200 which we have advanced toward the cost of the building.

It is necessary, of course, for us to take out fire insurance on the building. We have an arrangement with the fire underwriters which enables us to secure insurance at one dollar per hundred for three years. If you insure the church for $5000, the insurance would cost $50 for the three year period. If you insure it for $10,000, the insurance premium would cost $100. We would like to place insurance on the property at once in the amount that you indicate. It is customary in such cases for the congregation to pay the insurance premium. I feel confident that your congregation will be glad to take care of this item in view of the generous gifts of the Board.

With every good wish, and awaiting your advice, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

cc to Mr. Bingle

Palmer, Alaska
Dec 6 - 27.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave.
New York N.Y.

Dear Dr Somerndike:

Since the stenographer for the church wrote my letter which was gone over by Don L. Irwin - Bldg Com. Ch. & Dr. C. Earl Albrecht as well as myself I have had the remainder paid on the Clarence A. Brueven lot. You will find a paper enclosed which he signed up before you came in Sept. - You may send the deed thru me if you wish. - His address is Palmer.

I see when Mr. Snodgrass signed the paper he also changed the reading from the manse to the Church - the subject taken up in enclosed letter

The other purchaser for lot 12 in block 2 of the Snodgrass Addition to Palmer townsite is:

Charles Svoboda, Palmer, Alaska.

When Mr. Svoboda finishes paying for his lot, which he is working out on church Building construction, I will let you know. You can the fix deed accordingly.

If I can be of further assistance let me know. You should see our building now - It looks lovely. all trusses & purlins & last work is also completed on main part. Will try getting another picture for you. - Sincerely D. L. Irwin

Palmer, Alaska
October 12, 1939

To the Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:

On several different occasions the Board of Elders of the United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska, have discussed certain problems that have confronted our congregation for some time. They have not been clarified and may become more serious for all concerned if they are not met. Accordingly, the board has authorized our Pastor, Reverend B. J. Bingle to represent us in person to discuss these matters with the hope of their complete settlement.

In 1935, when the United States Government planned the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Project, the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church assumed the responsibility of furnishing a missionary to the Matanuska Valley to administer to those that were already living there , to those working at the respective mines and to the new colonists that the Federal Government were sending into the valley.

Among other matters which were discussed by the Home Missions Council and the F.E.R.A. offices in Washington and the local offices of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation of Palmer, was the matter of allocating a tract of land for the construction of a church, the use of which must be interdenominational in organization and work. The Reverend B. J. Bingle was sent in as the minister by the Presbyterian Board under that arrangement.

The congregation was organized in 1935 by an interdenominational group, at that time representing fourteen different denominations. The duly elected church council of seven members represented seven different denominations. A form of government and constitution was drawn up by these members, keeping in mind not only the agreement which existed between the Presbyterian Board and the Washington offices, but also, the fact that an interdenominational setup was essential to the formation of a strong local congregation.

This plan was then presented to the New York office of the Presbyterian Board and approved in detail by the Alaskan secretary of the Board. With the exception of minor details that organization is the same today. The plan was submitted for approval to the manager of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. On the basis of

his recommendation, land owned by the corportion was deeded to the congregation and the Presbyterian Board.

You, of course, are fully acquainted with the accomplishments of this congregation, especially in regard to its building program. We are fully mindful likewise, of the great assistance that the Board of National Missions has given us. For this we are duly grateful. Again, we are fully aware that it is advisable for this congregation to have itself firmly established with a prominent Protestant denomination, and accordingly we have long since voted to belong to the Yukon Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church.

It was clearly pointed out by Doctor Somerndike, when he visited us here in Alaska that this was a matter of form and good policy, but with the original plan and agreement with the Federal Government, this did not make the members of this United Protestant Church of Palmer, members of the Presbyterian denomination. This may appear to be a very small and peculiar point, but it is not that any one has any aversion against the Presbyterian denomination but those, and incidently most of the members, are not Presbyterians, and do not wish to lose their standing in their respective denominations by becoming full members of the Presbyterian denomination. And furthermore, we must not in any way jeopardize the agreement we have made with the Federal Government by which we obtained the deed for the land on which our church is constructed.

This matter came to our attention recently when the Yukon Presbytery in its regular meeting, informed us that our organization was not in order and could not be accepted by the Presbyterian Church. This not only applied to the congregation, but it applied to our Pastor, who might find himself in not the right relationship with the Presbyterian Board.

We feel that such should never again be the case and wish to have our standing, and that of our Pastor definitely decided upon in the very near future.

We hope that this letter as presented has sufficient of the details necessary, in addition to those that you will receive from Reverend Bingle directly, in order that a decision may speedily be made directly to us as well as to the Yukon Presbytery.

Fraternally yours,

Don L. Erwin

Don L. Erwin

Walter E. Huntley

Walter E. Huntley

C. Earl Albrecht

C. Earl Albrecht, MD

Nov.
8th
1939

United Protestant Church,
Palmer, Alaska

Gentlemen:

In response to your request of October 12th, here are some statements concerning the United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska, that we trust will clear up the difficulties or misunderstandings that exist between that church and Yukon Presbytery:-

1. The church at Palmer must remain a United Protestant church with the doors open to any and to all denominations. The form of government and the constitution that were prepared by the members are recognized and respected by the Board of National Missions.

2. This United church by its own request and with the approval of Presbytery belongs to the Yukon Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

3. In order, therefore, to maintain this local united relationship as well as the official relationship to the Presbytery, the following requirements must be met:-

   (a) Locally, the church will recognize the administrative powers invested in the duly elected church council.

   (b) Members may be received into this United Church through the council without surrendering their own denominational connections.

   (c) In addition to the council, the United Protestant Church will have duly elected elders who together with the pastor will constitute the session. These elders must be Presbyterians, with no exceptions.

   (d) The session will receive and enroll all Presbyterians. The session will review and report to Presbytery all the meetings of the church council. The session will elect one of the elders to represent the church at Presbytery. The church council can elect a representative but he would have <u>no</u> vote on the floor of Presbytery.

(e) The session will be the official contact between the local church and Presbytery in all matters. The church council has the privilege of making any requests or offering any recommendations that it deems wise, but all requests and recommendations must come through the session when addressed to the Yukon Presbytery.

(f) In the annual report to Presbytery, all members of the Sunday School can be counted, but in the church membership only the number of Presbyterians should be reported.

(g) Since the Board of National Missions has and is investing no small sum of money in this church, we expect all members of the church to contribute to the local expenses as well as to the general benevolences of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

It is not the purpose of the Presbyterian Church to dictate the policies of the United Protestant Church. But it is the plan of the Presbyterian Church to be a helpful power in directing the activities of the United Protestant Church in interest of the Kingdom. In order to maintain this helpful relationship, there are certain definite and defined channels through which all official and administrative work must go. This is the explanation of certain requirements that we have endeavored to set forth.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Nov.
8th
1939

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Palmer, Alaska

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